

**Welcome to Methods II:**

Classes are as individual as a “thumbprint.” Each person you ask about a class will share his or her personal experience. I wanted to share some of my hopes and expectations this semester as you prepare for your studies.

During the first class, you will receive a Notebook that will hold the “content” of our studies during this semester. However, the papers distributed at various times are only a small portion of our work. Primarily, the work in this class revolves around **EXPERIMENTAL LEARNING**. The most important question a teacher can ask about new ideas, skills, or activities is “How can I use this?” We will have many discussions on the utilities of information and techniques shared in class.

Further, each of us will have opportunities to share our own innovations for the classroom especially in the area of the team building and lesson planning. One of the major goals of the course is to “feel into” methods that focus on a realistic assessment of one’s individual work (self-esteem) and one’s skills related to interdependent work (group dynamics).

The traditional “method” of lecture will be briefly addressed as well as evaluation and ways to improve student-teacher relationships. Again, all content is secondary to the **PROCESS** of how students and teachers work with each other not against each other to make learning a reciprocal process. Current “hot topics” and writers will provide resources for theory into **PRACTICE** goals.

Hopefully, your critical thinking skills will be piqued with activities or ideas designed to stretch your imagination and to allow for some introspection about your own attitudes, ideas and beliefs and how they can assist your work. Sometimes, “vague and ambiguous” tasks will be presented to challenge your cognitive skills. Developing awareness about creative thinking and problem solving skills may assist you in designing your own lessons to encourage higher level thinking skills in your future work.


All in all, you are invited to **PARTICIPATE**, to **QUESTION**, and to **DISCOVER “ANSWERS”** (if there are any!) For yourself.

Please feel free to dress casually as some of our week is kinesthetic as well as cerebral. The cost of “The Easy Teacher” was covered in your lab fee. The texts, **Joining Together** (Johnson and Johnson) and **Guide for Developing as Interdisciplinary Thematic Unit** (Roberts/Kellough) are available at the SNC bookstore. **Designing Groupwork** by Elizabeth Cohen and study skills texts are on reserve at MacLean Library. Keep all notes on texts for reference later.

I look forward to collaborating with you this semester.

Regards,

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 <http://www.egroups.com/group/interactiveclass2001>

**This is our e-group. It is a place where we can communicate on line.**

The e-group has several benefits:

- 1 You can post a message to everyone in the class. When you find a web site of interest to all, you can tell them. If you need to ask a question, you can leave it there and get responses from several people.**
- 2. The e-group has a chat room. It may be possible to send e-mail to everyone by posting a message to see who might be available for an on-line chat to experience this on line chat process.**
- 3. Think of ways this might be useful to you as a teacher.**
  - a. Virtual office hours**
  - b. Extended Learning discussion task**
  - c. Study groups for students**

You will automatically be subscribed after entering your e-mail into the instructor's computer on the first evening of class.